YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP *for* perfect gifts is Canada's Department Store

SALE ENDS SATURDAY, DEC. 24, 2016

50% off
Women's sleepwear and robes by DKNY, KENSIE, MIDNIGHT MADDIE and more
In our sleepwear department. See below for exclusions.

30% off
Sleepwear for kids and babies by PETIT LEM, LITTLE ME and CHICK PEA; gifts and accessories for babies

Shop in your PJs at thebay.com and enjoy ***free shipping*** *on orders of $99 or more**

40% off
Men's slippers
In our slipper department. See below for exclusions.

$29.99
CALVIN KLEIN Modern Cotton bralettes Reg. $35

25% off other CALVIN KLEIN lingerie, socks, liners, pantyhose and tights.
See below for exclusions.

40% off
Women's slippers
In our slipper department. See below for exclusions.

35% off
Men's underwear by TOMMY HILFIGER and JOE BOXER; Underwear and thermalwear by STANFIELD'S

25% off
Men's activewear
In our activewear department. See below for exclusions.

Buy 1, get 1 50% off
Men's socks
Second item must be of equal or lesser value. See below for exclusions.

Savings for all offers are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. ***FREE SHIPPING:** Receive free standard shipping on a total purchase amount of $99 or more before taxes. Offer is based on merchandise total and does not include taxes or any additional charges. Free standard shipping is applied after discounts and/or promotion code offers. Offer not valid at Hudson's Bay or any other HBC stores. Additional fees apply for Express or Next Day Shipping. Applies to Canadian delivery addresses only. Excludes furniture, canoes, patio furniture, patio accessories, barbeques and mattresses. **Women's sleepwear and robes** exclude New Spring Arrivals, Calvin Klein styles D1630, D1632 and D1633, Kate Spade New York, Lauren Ralph Lauren, Eileen West, Paper Label and items with 99¢ price endings. **Men's slippers** exclude UGG Australia. **Women's slippers** exclude UGG Australia, COACH, Ted Baker, Kate Spade New York and items with 99¢ price endings.**Calvin Klein lingerie** excludes style QP1271G, '3-for panty' offers and 3-pack packaged panties Reg. $42. **Men's socks** exclude Bugatti, Jockey, Ted Baker, Under Armour, Boss, Diesel, Hudson North, McGregor '3-for $24' offers and items with 99¢ price endings. **Men's activewear** excludes Under Armour, Helly Hansen, Hurley, Spyder and NHL, MLS, NBA, MLB and CFL official sports apparel and accessories. **FROM OPPOSITE PAGE:** Toys exclude select Lego.

30% off

ED ELLEN DEGENERES bedding collections and cushions;
CALVIN KLEIN Modern Cotton bedding collections

A Hudson's Bay holiday gift card lets them choose the gifts they want the most.

10% off

CROSLEY turntables and assorted vinyl titles

Featured: Cruiser portable turntable. Reg. $129.99
Sale $116.99

$8.99

HUDSON'S BAY CONFECTIONS gift tins

Available in Wine Gums or Allsorts. 700 g. Reg. $13.99 each

25% off all other HUDSON'S BAY CONFECTIONS.

20% off confections by GODIVA and LINDT.

2017 RED MITTENS $15

Hudson's Bay has raised over $29 million for Canadian Olympic athletes through Red Mitten sales. $3.90 of every $15 purchase goes towards the Canadian Olympic Foundation. Exclusively ours

Exclusively Ours

gifts you won't find anywhere else, from our iconic stripes to our Red Mittens

$180

HUDSON'S BAY COLLECTION Blanket Bear

$59.99

HUDSON'S BAY COLLECTION BARBIE

A stylish, modern take on the Hudson's Bay point blanket.

$120

HUDSON'S BAY COLLECTION Pom Pom Throw

20% off

Toys

Off our regular prices. See opposite page for exclusions.

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HUDSON'S BAY

50% off

Diamond, pearl, gemstone and gold fine jewellery

PLUS, SAVE AN EXTRA 20%
on fine jewellery with a Hudson's Bay MasterCard® or Hudson's Bay Credit Card.
See below for details.

As Canada's #1 seller of watches we have an amazing range of styles from famous brands.

25% off

Select designer watches
Exclusions apply.
See store for details.

$44.99
DOCKERS Signature khaki pants
Reg. $59.99

40% off other DOCKERS casual clothes for men.
See below for exclusions.

Up to
50% off

Men's fall/winter suits, suit separates and sport coats
Prices as ticketed.

Up to 40% off
fall/winter dress pants.
Prices as ticketed.

$149.98
1670 suit separates suit.
Reg. $199.98
Jacket. Reg. $129.99
Sale $99.99;
Pants. Reg. $69.99
Sale $49.99

$349.98
TOMMY HILFIGER suit separates suit. Reg. $600
Jacket. Reg. $425
Sale $249.99;
Pants. Reg. $175
Sale $99.99

In our men's suit, suit separates and sport coat departments.

40% off

Dresses by KARL LAGERFELD PARIS and LORI MICHAELS
In our women's dress department. See below for exclusions.

Up to
30% off

Handbags and wallets
In our handbag department.
Exclusions apply. See store for details.

Savings for all offers are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. **Women's dresses** exclude New Spring Arrivals, Project Gravitas and items with 99¢ price endings. **Fine jewellery** excludes Ginette NY, Concerto, V19.69 Italia, Catherine Malandrino, Naledi Bridal, Judith Ripka, Ivanka Trump, Alor Fine Jewellery, Korite and items with 99¢ price endings. **HUDSON'S BAY CREDIT FINE JEWELLERY OFFER:** Excludes Ginette NY, Concerto, V19.69 Italia, Catherine Malandrino, Naledi Bridal, Judith Ripka, Ivanka Trump, Alor Fine Jewellery, Korite and items with 99¢ price endings. Offer ends December 24, 2016. Other exclusions apply. See in store and online for details. Hudson's Bay, Hudson's Bay Credit, Hudson's Bay Rewards, hbc.com and their associated designs are trademarks of Hudson's Bay Company. **Credit is extended by Capital One Bank (Canada Branch).** Capital One is a registered trademark of Capital One Financial Corporation, used under license. MasterCard and the MasterCard Brand Mark are registered trademarks of MasterCard International Incorporated. **Men's Dockers** excludes items with 99¢ price endings. **FROM OPPOSITE PAGE: WOMEN'S FASHION:** Select styles available in Petite and Plus Sizes; Excludes New Spring Arrivals. **Calvin Klein Sportswear and Calvin Klein Sportswear Plus Size** exclude 517 December, 517 January and items with 99¢ price endings. **KARL LAGERFELD PARIS** excludes 1755 DEC, 1755 JAN, 1755 CORE and items with 99¢ price endings. **Dresses for girls and babies** include 4Ever Free, Blueberi Boulevard, Princess Faith, Pippa & Julie, Iris & Ivy, Penelope Mack, Emerald Sundae, Lavender and Marmellata. **Men's dress shirts and ties** exclude 1670, Black Brown 1826, Billy Reid, Eleventy, Filippa K, Horst, Hudson Room, Hugo, Hugo Boss, J Lindeberg, Klauss Boehler, Pure, Richard James, Strellson, Ted Baker, Ted Baker Pharmal, Theory, TIE BAR, Tiger of Sweden, Tombolini, Van Laack and Zegna. **FRAGRANCE SETS:** Values are based on our per mL and/or g price for regular-sized products.

Perfectly PARTY Prepped

Up to
30% off
Fashion and sterling silver jewellery
In our fashion jewellery department. Exclusions apply. See store for details.

60% off
Women's fashion by KARL LAGERFELD PARIS, CALVIN KLEIN Sportswear, H HALSTON and HIGHLINE COLLECTIVE
See opposite page for exclusions.

40% off
Dresses for girls and babies; Dresswear for boys and babies
See opposite page for details.

$499.99
DYSON Supersonic hair dryer
Adjustable heat control and a powerful digital motor to help prevent heat damage and protect hair's natural shine.

Our great assortment of brands, fits and styles has made us Canada's #1 seller of dress shirts.

$19.99
Men's dress shirts by ARROW and IZOD Reg. $45 and $55

50% off men's dress shirts by KENNETH COLE REACTION, GEOFFREY BEENE, PERRY ELLIS PORTFOLIO, TOMMY HILFIGER, MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS and SONDERGAARD.

40% off men's dress shirts by ARROW PREMIUM, CALVIN KLEIN, NAUTICA, LAUREN RALPH LAUREN and VINCE CAMUTO.

30% off other dress shirts and ties for men. See opposite page for exclusions.

We have Canada's biggest collection of designer cosmetics and fragrance gift sets

LANCÔME
$52
$120 VALUE
Grandiôse Essentials
4-piece gift set

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HUDSON'S BAY

Plus, receive $100 in Nespresso Club Credits with the purchase of any NESPRESSO machine, Reg. $199 and up. See below for details.

$249.99
NESPRESSO
VertuoLine
coffee brewer
in chrome

Order at thebay.com to have their gifts ***shipped straight to them,*** *no sleigh required.*

50% off
Women's fashion
by CHAPS, HAGGAR
and KAREN SCOTT

40% off
Clothing for
kids and babies
See below for details.

Save $10
OSTER
Belgian waffle maker
Reg. $42.99 **Sale $32.99**

20% off all other small appliances by OSTER, SALTON and HAMILTON BEACH.

Shop GIFTS *for* Morning

65% off
BALLARINI Bologna
and Positano Granitium
non-stick frying pans
Made in Italy. Reg. $99.99 to
$149.99 **Sale $34.99 to $51.99**

Save $100
BREVILLE Smart Oven Pro
Reg. $369.99 **Sale $269.99**

20% off other BREVILLE
small appliances.
See below for exclusions.

30% off
CUISINART
Hurricane
blender
Reg. $319.99
Sale $219.99

20% off all
other CUISINART
small appliances.

Savings for all offers are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. **WOMEN'S FASHION:** Select styles available in Petite and Plus Sizes; Excludes New Spring Arrivals. **Karen Scott and Karen Scott Plus Size** exclude S17, December and items with 99¢ price endings. **Chaps and Chaps Plus Size** exclude S17, HL ACT III, HL CLS III, HL DHM III, HL SPW III and items with 99¢ price endings. **Haggar** excludes S17, Graphics and items with 99¢ price endings. **Clothing for kids and babies** include Dex, Material Girl, Jessica Simpson, Rococo, Calvin Klein Sets, Bob Der Bar, Jill Yoga and Levi's; Excludes Levi's items with 99¢ price endings. **NESPRESSO CLUB CREDIT OFFER:** Off our regular prices; Excludes items with 00¢ price endings; See store for details. **Breville** excludes items with 00¢ price endings. **FROM OPPOSITE PAGE: Men's Haggar** excludes items with 99¢ price endings. **GlucksteinHome** excludes items with 95¢ price endings. **KitchenAid** excludes items with 00¢ price endings.

Save $40
KITCHENAID
Simple Pleasures
hand-held
small appliances
Reg. $89.99
Sale $49.99 each

Save $300
after $50 mail-in rebate
$299.99

KITCHENAID Artisan Series
tilt-head stand mixer
Available in 23 colours.
Reg. $599.99 **Sale $349.99**

Save $130
DELONGHI Dedica
Reg. $379.99
Sale $249.99

Finish your shopping morning, noon or night with our stores'
extended holiday hours

Save $100 after mail-in rebate
KITCHENAID Spiralizer stand mixer attachment.
Reg. $249.99 **Sale $179.99 After rebate $149.99**

Up to 40% off
other KITCHENAID small appliances.
See opposite page for exclusions.

to Night

$39.99
HAGGAR Work to
Weekend pants
Reg. $49.99

40% off other HAGGAR
casual clothes for men.
See opposite page
for exclusions.

30% off
RIEDEL Grape
collection stemware
Sets of 2. Reg. $80
Sale $56

15% off all other
RIEDEL stemware,
barware and decanters.

50% off
GLUCKSTEINHOME
A La Carte 16-piece
dinnerware set
Service for 4. Reg. $99.99
Sale $49.99

30% off other GLUCKSTEINHOME
dinnerware, serving pieces,
stemware, barware, flatware,
kitchen and table linens.
See opposite page for exclusions.

Save $30
T-FAL Filtra Pro Deep Fryer
Reg. $119.99 **Sale $89.99**

Save up to $80 on other
T-FAL small appliances.

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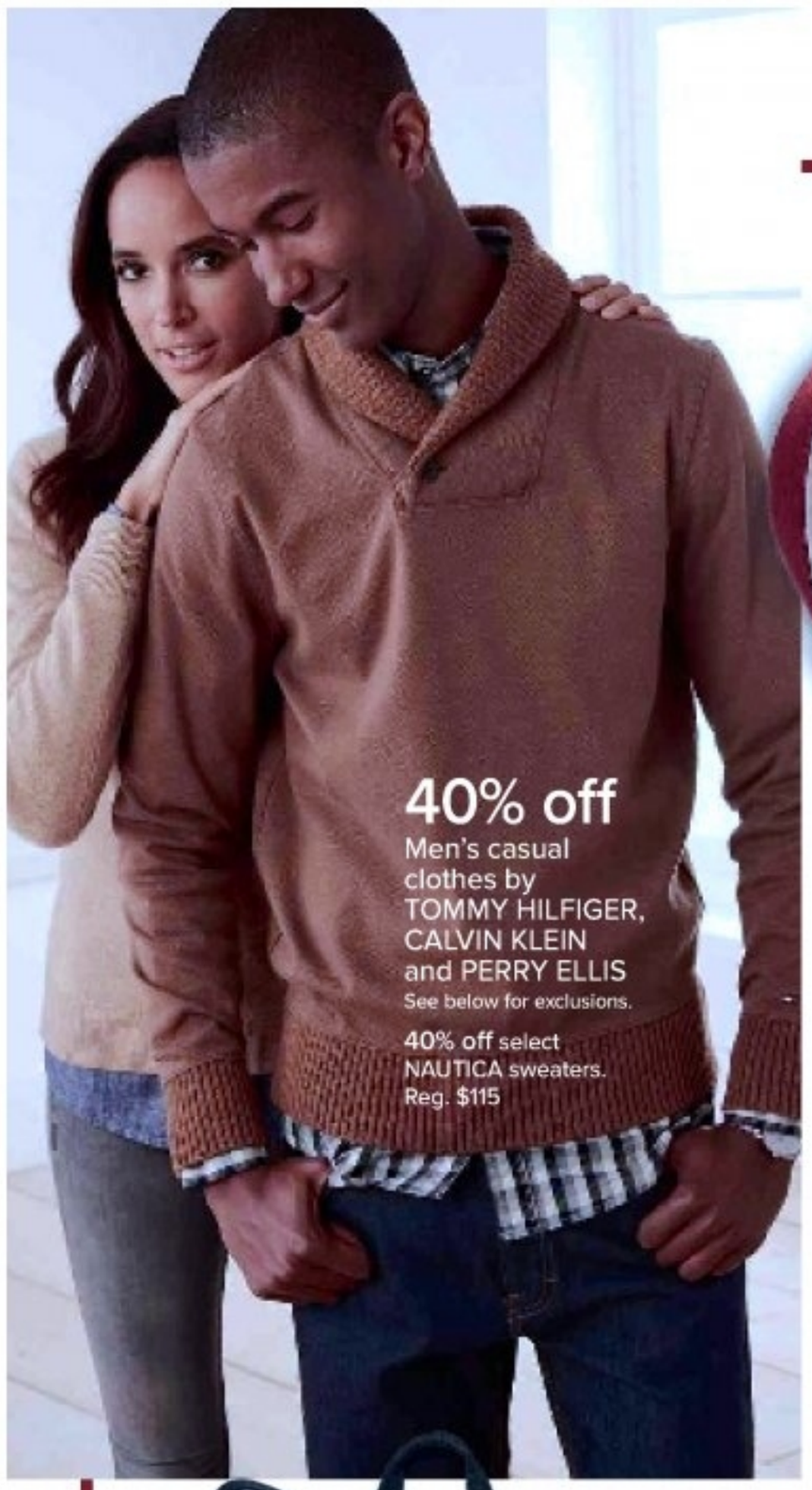
HUDSON'S BAY



40% off
Men's casual clothes by TOMMY HILFIGER, CALVIN KLEIN and PERRY ELLIS
See below for exclusions.

40% off select NAUTICA sweaters. Reg. $115

Exchange your unused gift cards for a Hudson's Bay gift card through CardSwap
See below for details.

$79.99
LORD & TAYLOR Cashmere Reg. $169 to $189

$89.99 Plus sizes. Reg. $189 to $209

50% off LORD & TAYLOR Novelty and Ply Cashmere. Reg. $199 to $269; Plus Sizes. Reg. $249 to $289

50% off LORD & TAYLOR fashion for women.
See below for exclusions.

Shop GIFTS *for* Looking Cool

$39.99
LEVI'S 501, 505, 516 and 550 jeans for men Reg. $69.99

$59.99 LEVI'S 510, 511, 513, 522 and 541 jeans for men. Reg. $84.95 and $89.95

33% off LEVI'S tops and jackets for men.
See below for exclusions.

$44.99
IVY PARK joggers Reg. $70

$49.99 IVY PARK hoodie. Reg. $75

30% off IVY PARK activewear and accessories for women. Off our regular prices.
See below for details.

$69.99
Men's jeans by JACK & JONES, CALVIN KLEIN JEANS, WILLIAM RAST and BUFFALO DAVID BITTON Reg. $89 to $145

30% off other casual clothes for men by BUFFALO DAVID BITTON, JACK & JONES, CALVIN KLEIN JEANS and ONLY & SONS.
See below for exclusions.

Savings for all offers are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. **Lord & Taylor fashion** excludes New Spring Arrivals, sweaters Reg. $89 to $99 and items with 99¢ price endings. **Men's Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Perry Ellis, Buffalo David Bitton and Calvin Klein Jeans** exclude items with 99¢ price endings. **Men's Levi's** exclude all commuter styles and items with 99¢ price endings. **Women's Ivy Park joggers** include styles 691861, 691862 and 797251. **Ivy Park hoodies** include styles 691864, 691863 and 797253. **CARDSWAP:** Gift Card exchange services and website are provided by CardSwap Inc. and are subject to CardSwap's terms of use and privacy policy; Please read terms of use carefully before using this service; Gift Card exchange services and website are available in English only; Visit thebay.com/gcexchange for details. **FROM OPPOSITE PAGE: Women's coats and jackets** exclude K-Way, Fjallraven, Jack Wolfskin, Helly Hansen, Marmot, Spyder, Trespass, Hfx0, Cinzia Rocca, Sentaler, Sorel, Sola and Kyo, Pajar, Artic Expedition, Lauren Ralph Lauren, Sicily, Michael Michael Kors, Soskeo, Kate Spade New York, Cinzia Rocca Icons, 1 Madison Dept 224, T Tahari and items with 99¢ price endings. **50% off men's coats and jackets** exclude items with 99¢ price endings. **40% off men's casual outerwear** excludes Helly Hansen, Under Armour, Marmot, Jack Wolfskin, Fjallraven, Moose Knuckles, Sola & Kyo, Vince Camuto, Michael Michael Kors, Selected Homme, G Lab, Pajar, Psycho Bunny, Penfield and items with 99¢ price endings. **Men's hats, gloves and scarves** exclude Under Armour, Adidas, Hudson North, 180s, Michael Kors, Spyder, Herschel Supply Co., John Varvatos, Pajar and Polo Ralph Lauren. **Women's cold-weather accessories** exclude Adrienne Landau, Burberry, COACH, Kate Spade New York, Lauren Ralph Lauren, Linda Richards, Lord & Taylor cashmere and gloves, Marc By Marc Jacobs, Michael Michael Kors, UGG Australia and items with 99¢ price endings. **HUDSON'S BAY REWARDS:** Hudson's Bay, Hudson's Bay Rewards, hbc.com and their associated designs are trademarks of Hudson's Bay Company.

30% off

Men's winter boots by TIMBERLAND, CLARKS and LONDON FOG

40% off

Flannel bedding, blankets and throws by DISTINCTLY HOME and GLUCKSTEINHOME; DH flannel bedding

50% off

Christmas sweaters
Reg. $69 to $179 **Sale $34.50 to $89.50**

Plus, Christmas T-shirts, starting at $9.99

and Keeping Warm

Turn points into presents when you trade in your Hudson's Bay Rewards Points for gift cards.

40% off

Women's cold-weather accessories

See opposite page for exclusions.

25% off

Women's boots by SOREL and COLUMBIA

Up to 40% off other rain and winter boots for women by PAJAR, LONDON FOG, BLONDO and more.
In our footwear department. Exclusions apply. See store for details.

50% off

Women's coats and jackets
In our outerwear department.

50% off

Men's coats and jackets by LONDON FOG, POINT ZERO, F.O.G. BY LONDON FOG and PERRY ELLIS

40% off other casual outerwear; dress outerwear by LAUREN RALPH LAUREN, BLACK BROWN 1826 and LONDON FOG; hats, gloves, scarves, wallets, belts and bags for men.
In our casual outerwear, dress outerwear and accessories departments. See below for exclusions.

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HUDSON'S BAY

DESIGNER Fragrance Gifts

Holiday scents and gifts for her and for him from our biggest designer brands.

VERSACE

YOUR GIFT

Receive this designer tote bag, ***FREE*** with the purchase of any large-size fragrance from the VERSACE women's fragrance collection. **A $90 value.**

While quantities last.

$129
VERSACE
Eros Pour Femme
eau de toilette
spray, 100 mL

$118
VERSACE
Bright Crystal
eau de toilette
spray, 100 mL

*Buy them a gift and get a gift in return: Receive a $10 savings card on any cosmetics or fragrance purchase of $75 or more***

YOUR GIFT

Receive this weekend bag, ***FREE*** with the purchase of any large-size fragrance from the VERSACE men's fragrance collection. **A $75 value.**

While quantities last.

$98
VERSACE Eros
eau de toilette
spray, 100 mL

$102
VERSACE
Dylan Blue
eau de toilette
spray, 100 mL

GIVENCHY

YOUR GIFT

Receive this tote bag, ***FREE*** with the purchase of any large-size fragrance of 75 mL or more from the GIVENCHY women's fragrance collection.

While quantities last.

$110
GIVENCHY
Hot Couture
eau de toilette
spray, 100 mL

$122
GIVENCHY
Live Irresistible
eau de parfum
spray, 75 mL

YOUR GIFT

Receive this GIVENCHY hand towel, ***FREE*** with the purchase of any large-size fragrance of 75 mL or more from the GIVENCHY men's fragrance collection.

While quantities last.

$111
GIVENCHY
Gentlemen Only
Absolute eau de
parfum, 100 mL

$103
GIVENCHY Pi
eau de toilette
spray, 100 mL

FREE SHIPPING AT THEBAY.COM ON BEAUTY ORDERS OF $45 OR MORE*

Savings for all offers are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. **BEAUTY AND FRAGRANCE GIFTS AND SETS:** While quantities last. One gift per customer. Values are based on our per mL and/or g price for regular-sized products. ***FREE SHIPPING:** Receive free standard shipping on a total purchase amount of $45 or more before taxes. Offer is based on merchandise total and does not include taxes or any additional charges. Free standard shipping is applied after discounts and/or promotion code offers. Offer not valid at Hudson's Bay or any other HBC stores. Additional fees apply for Express or Next Day Shipping. Applies to Canadian delivery addresses only. ****Before taxes.** While quantities last. Redeemable on your next cosmetics or fragrance purchase of $75 or more before taxes. Valid in store only from December 14 to 24, 2016. One card per transaction. Not to be combined with any other offer. Other exclusions apply. See store for details.

HUDSON'S BAY

Prince Charles meets with Monica Ittusardjuat this month in Cartmenshire, Wales as part of her task force's visit regarding preserving the Inuit language's future. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Inuit leaders inspired by visit to Wales

CULTURE

Group hopes to fix split and forge common identity

For Canadian Inuit leaders, creating a unified written language system out of nine dialects and two existing writing systems, one word is proving more important than the rest.

"Asijjiiniaqtut" — roughly translated as "give and take."

That's because everyone is having to compromise in order to progress toward an agreed-upon code that can be conveyed by someone in the western Arctic village of Tuktoyaktuk and understood in Clyde River on the eastern coast of Baffin Island, or written in the northernmost Nunavut village, Grise Fiord, and read in the Quebec community of Kuujjuaq.

"Everybody's giving and taking and giving up things to come up with a unified writing system," said Monica Ittusardjuat, the national Inuit-language coordinator for Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the group that represents the community in Canada.

This week, Ittusardjuat and the members of an Inuit-language task force were on a tour of Wales organized by Prince's Charities Canada, the charitable organization headed by Prince Charles. They were there for tips about what to do and to avoid in their work, but also for inspiration from a country that is bringing the Welsh language back from extinction.

During a visit to the University of Wales and the National Library, for example, it was explained that the online Dictionary of the Welsh Language, launched in 2014, was digitized by a Danish publishing company that was influenced by its previous work on Kalaallisut, the language of Greenland's Inuit, Ittusardjuat said.

"That was really inspiring to us — that we can use the same system for Canada," she said.

> **Inuit have always functioned as one, but invisible borders have divided us.**
> Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik

"Inuit have always functioned as one, but because of the government system invisible borders have divided us," said Jeannie Arreak-Kullualik, a member of the Atausiq Inuktut Titirausiq task force that is consulting on the changes.

"We're trying to unify so that we can eliminate those barriers because we all have the same challenges, which is to keep our language and culture alive and get more education for our children."

But while the Inuit have a long linguistic history, the current work toward a single, standard writing code has only just begun. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FORT MCMURRAY

The man who battled the 'beast' retiring

The man who led a fight against "the beast" is planning to move on from his role as Fort McMurray fire chief.

Darby Allen became the face of the northeastern Alberta community's scramble to beat back a fierce wildfire that laid waste to 10 per cent of the city.

Nearly 90,000 people fled the flames and were forced out their homes for at least a month, though no one died as a direct result of the fire.

Allen, 59, is planning to retire from his post in February and leave Fort McMurray.

"That's been a bit of a weird decision for me, but it's just time for me to move on and get on with the next phase of my life and give my full attention to my lovely wife," he said.

He said his wife has osteoporosis and northern Alberta winters have been tough on her. They're looking to relocate somewhere with a more temperate climate.

"I'm not going to take a full-time job again in any kind of fire role. I've just got some different opportunities that we're going to look at."

He said his decision to move on was not related to the stress many in the community have experienced in the fire's aftermath, but admitted he has been struggling a bit emotionally.

"I can't quite put my finger on what's wrong, but just feeling a little bit different. I've been getting a little bit of help with that, to be frank, and that's OK," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Darby Allen THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, December 19, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

My girlfriend says I have an obligation to visit my drinking buddy's new baby. Is she right?

Dear Ellen,

My best drinking buddy and his wife had a baby a few weeks ago, so he's basically under house arrest for the foreseeable future. I ran into him at a work thing and congratulated him. Now my (sort of) girlfriend tells me I'm socially obligated to go see the actual baby. She seemed incredibly shocked I haven't visited already. Seriously? I have no interest in kids, and doubt the baby gives a diaper-load whether I show up or not. But I don't want to offend anyone either. What's the etiquette here?

Dave

Dear Dave,

Yes, you must go see the baby.

You are right to assume the baby will have as much interest in you as you have in it: zero. In fact, I have a clear mental picture of the entire encounter. Based on nothing more than your clueless attitude and an old boyfriend of mine named Dave, I see you as a man-child-about-town who likes a drink, considers shaving optional and is a good buddy but an undomesticated nightmare of a boyfriend. I imagine your stubbled mug looming over the crib as you exhale alcoholic fumes left over from the previous night's debauchery, while the small human blob trapped by your gaze immediately bursts into tears of terror and disgust.

I must confess, I myself did not appreciate how important this point of etiquette was until I had my own baby.

So be it. The kid will survive, and you will have done your duty. No one is expecting you to forge any kind of meaningful relationship with the blob (assuming you're even capable of forming any kind of meaningful relationship). What we do ask is that you politely honour your friend and his wife's gigantic rite of passage by making an effort to show up.

I must confess, I myself did not appreciate how important this point of etiquette was until I had my own baby. Obviously, close friends and family came by. But I found myself deeply touched when less-close friends and acquaintances also took the trouble to visit or send cards and gifts from afar. It bolstered my nervous-new-mom confidence to share the joy of my daughter's arrival in the world, and the superstitious side of me (which often appears in even the most skeptical of first-time mothers) took all the well-wishing as valuable deposits to a good-luck account that I suddenly realized all children needed in a world that suddenly seemed full of peril.

A small gift is also in order — some kind of stuffie or board book easily obtainable online or from a store recommended by your long-suffering, better-mannered, "sort-of" girlfriend.

If you need to brace yourself any further, please don't use alcohol to do so. Just YouTube "Seinfeld ugly baby" and watch the clip where Jerry and Elaine go to the Hamptons to visit friends who have a hideous newborn infant. If those self-absorbed losers can muster the manners to pretend the baby is cute and worth viewing, I'm sure you can too.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

VICKY MOCHAMA

We were promised flying cars; we got a potato chip golden age

This is the future we've been waiting for, and man, is it disappointing.

We spent decades watching feature packages on the nightly news that breathlessly fawned over robots from Japan and cars with abstract design concepts like see-through tires and free will. Yet I still have to take out my own garbage.

(The dog robots were, I think, a mistake. Who wants something with none of the physical ability of a dog, a third as much charm, and one battery too many? If the death of a family dog is traumatic, imagine the emotional havoc of one that powers down midwalk.)

There are plenty of marvellous things about this present world. Nothing but good things can be said of the explosion of potato chip flavors. Entire families have been saved from misadventure and divorce by never having to open a paper map thanks to GPS. Hosannas should be sung to the twin saviors of Google and Apple for sparing countless dinner parties or meetings from devolving into terminal awkwardness through the misapplication of facts.

So, yes, there is a great deal of good by our present technological standards. I am bad enough at texting to know that I would have been a terrible letter writer.

But what happened to all the cool gadgets and experiences we were supposed to have? Why did the end of the space race mean that hover boots are no longer necessary? The Russians may no longer be the enemy (well, maybe; stay tuned), but why does that mean my house cannot casually greet me when I return home via the Tube — that is, a tube that digitally transports humans?

I understand the Cold War was a scary time. Nuclear destruction lurked, spies were everywhere, and the hopes of nations rested on their children's ability to learn math. But we in the West were working towards something at least. America was perfecting the school bully routine that would make it both the beloved high school quarterback of the last half-century and the current hustling salesman for a declining corporation ("Slide joyfully into crushing death. Go. With Visa.")

Canada was right alongside, auditioning for the role of high school sweetheart by softening squabbles, making peace where possible, and being a laid back, less athletic Australia. Australia reached peak whiteness by getting very good at cricket, rugby, surfing and marginalizing aboriginals. And the Europeans pulled slowly out of post-war penury and straight into state-sponsored vacationing. As a group, we flourished.

And then we didn't. Neofascism in Europe, Brexit, Trump, whatever is probably going wrong in Australia: Something seems to have gone terribly wrong in the West and I, for one, blame the fact that my crossword app drains my phone battery.

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Your essential daily news

Julia Roberts to star in her first small-screen project, an adaptation of Today Will Be Different

New lice policy has parents itching

ISTOCK

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Bugging over a more relaxed approach to nits in schools

Genna Buck
Metro Canada

It's a problem that bugs just about every family with school-age kids at some point.

Pediculosis, a.k.a. head lice, is icky, uncomfortable and hard to prevent. But it's not serious or a cause of disease.

And these days, lice-infested youngsters are, mostly, allowed to be in school — a policy that would have been unthinkable in their parents' day.

Tara Auger of Belleville, Ont., was so infuriated when her six-year-old daughter came home with head lice that she paid a visit to her local school board office and health unit this month, child in tow, to make a point.

"The school board was not excited to see me as I brought my daughter with active head lice into the building and allowed her to rub her head onto their chairs and couches. It shouldn't bother them ... since they are allowing kids to pass it around at schools on a daily basis," she wrote in a Facebook post that was shared over 550 times. "If they aren't going to force kids to stay home then there is no motivation for some to treat their kids."

School boards around the country have been bringing their head lice procedures into line with the Canadian Pediatric Society's recommendations, which say there's no rational reason to exclude children with nits or live lice from school or daycare.

According to Dr. Carl Cummings, an author of the CPS lice guidelines, kids found to have live lice don't need to be picked up from school or day care immediately. They can be sent home at the final bell with a note asking parents to use an over-the-counter treatment to kill the critters, and return the next day. A second treatment is recommended in a week or two, just in case some eggs survived.

But some parents are itching to reinstate a traditional, aggressive "no-nit" rule instead. (The Toronto District School Board is an exception. It still has a "no-nit" policy, though it's under review).

Auger started a Change.org petition to bring federal Health Minister Jane Philpott's attention to the issue. It has 500 signatures. A similar one, started by someone else and addressed to Ontario education minister Liz Sandals, has more than 1,000. Facebook groups for parents lamenting the new, liberal approach to lice abound.

The main grouse about the louse: It's unfair to diligent parents that kids with untreated lice are allowed to be in the classroom, constantly re-infecting everyone around them.

Until recently, parents were required to comb out every last louse and egg (nit) before their child was allowed back at school. They were advised to wage war on lice at home: vacuum rugs and furniture, wash the whole family's clothes and bedding in hot water.

Auger said she missed several days of work and kept her daughter home while she went on an anti-lice tear, spending 10 hours in four days combing out nits ("It's basically torture") and cleaning her house top to bottom. The cost, including the treatments, the nit comb, dozens of loads of laundry and lost wages: about $500.

Dr. Cummings said going to such lengths to battle lice is — pun intended — "overkill."

No-nit policies were "creating an atmosphere of worry over something that is annoying, itchy and pretty gross, but in no way endangers anybody's actual health," he said.

Cummings admitted he'd be pretty "appalled" if parents neglect to treat head lice they've been notified about.

Yet it happens, says one Ontario kindergarten teacher, who didn't want to be named.

> **There is no motivation for some to treat their kids.**
> Tara Auger, who went to her local school board office after her daughter Cali came home with head lice

"Last year our school had one ... family (where) the parents just gave up on it."

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario takes no position on the issue, except that teachers' shouldn't be required to do lice checks. The kindergarten teacher favours a middle-ground policy: No-nits is too extreme, but "If there's live lice, the child should be home. Then it's a burden on everybody."

Like many teachers and parents, he doubts the experts' position that most lice spread by direct contact, and that nits alone aren't an infestation.

"I don't have any research base on that," he said. "It's sheer experience."

His school doesn't require kids to be lice-free or provide proof of treatment, but does send them home with a free bottle of medicated shampoo if necessary.

"Our whole society is pushing more and more on the school."

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Hard man Gruber anchors unlikely Christmas classic

THE SHOW: Die Hard (Hollywood Suite/IFC)
THE MOMENT: Enter the villain

Machine-gun wielding henchmen have just murdered all the security guards and taken over a half-finished skyscraper complex in Los Angeles called Nakatomi Plaza. (The tower is empty except for one office, where a Christmas party rages.) As the cold-blooded shooters enter the building manager's luxe office, they are led by a besuited dandy who is clearly their mastermind: Hans Gruber (Alan Rickman).

Gruber saunters in, his eye on a scale model of the plaza. In a delicate German accent, he intones this quotation, reputedly about Alexander the Great: "And when Alexander saw the breadth of his domain he wept, for there were no more worlds to conquer."

Gruber's mouth curls ever-so-slightly upward as he adds to no one in particular, "The benefits of a classical education."

Now this is an entrance. With the briefest of strokes, screenwriters Jeb Stuart and Stephen E. de Souza establish exactly who their villain is: his heritage, drollery, languor, grandiosity, and certainty that he's the centre of attention.

This moment also puts him in exact opposition to our down-to-earth, all-American hero, John McClane, a 'Noo Yawk' cop who hates the hoity-toitery of L.A., yet who's been slightly unmanned by his more successful wife (Bonnie Bedelia). Gruber and McClane's face-off will be World War Two all over again, with McClane going full, Yippie-Ki-Yay cowboy.

Die Hard has become a holiday classic (Hollywood Suite showed it as part of their free, five-week fifth anniversary celebration, and IFC airs it Christmas Eve). Rickman made Gruber a villain for the ages.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Alan Rickman's brilliant performance helped turn Hans Gruber into a bad guy for the ages. CONTRIBUTED

Share a bit of Canada cool

Holiday Ideas

With just under a week to go before the holidays, you've managed to pare down your gift list to just a few last names. To help you cross off that hard-to-buy-for person, our editors from coast to coast have picked a unique, locally made gift. METRO

Edmonton's got edge

The J5 Table is Edmonton's answer to its critics. Edmonton is cool, hip and infused with a maker culture that many don't see from afar, and the J5 is that taken to new heights, hand made from concrete, wood and glass. Made by Ryspot Designs in Edmonton.

Available at: ryspot.bigcartel.com, $450

Political Circus, happening in Toronto

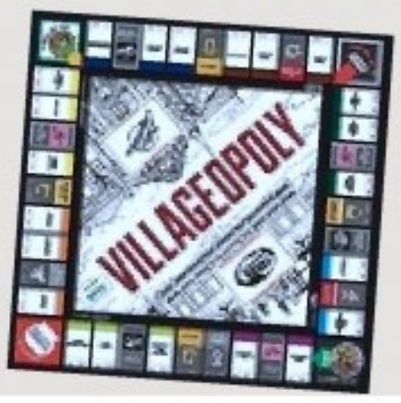
Toronto artist Gabe Thirlwall says popularity of her "political puppets" often mirrors opinion polls — the Justin Trudeau doll is still selling, although not as well as last year, and requests for Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne have dropped. Among this season's best-liked finger puppets, made by silkscreen on mixed textile, are defence minister Harjit Singh Sajjan and Calgary mayor Naheed Nenshi. The pop art project is called Political Circus, aimed at public engagement in politics. **Available at: Etsy/shop/PoliticalCircus, $15 each**

A little practicality coming from Ottawa

Purple Urchin sells environmentally friendly, handcrafted soaps. The Ottawa-based company has dozens of delicious scents to choose from and the prices are reasonable. This is a practical gift for even the most hard-to-shop-for person. **Available at: purpleurchinsoap.com, $5.99 per bar**

The Peg's hot market

Pass Wild Planet. Collect $200. In the Villageopoly board game — a version of Monopoly modelled after Canada's "great neighbourhood," Winnipeg's Osborne Village — you can own one of the strip's hip restaurants or boutiques. Proceeds go to the local Gas Station Arts Centre. **Available at: Call 204-284-9477 or email development@gsac.ca, $50**



Lobster-claw snowflake from the Maritimes

It doesn't get more Nova Scotian than Jampy Furniture's ocean-themed snowflake ornaments. All four designs, particularly the lobster claw, capture the unique flavour of the Maritimes. **Available at: facebook.com/jampyfurniture, $12.50 each or $45 for the set of four.**

Mismatched but looking good in Calgary

Calgary-based biz Friday Sock Company has your feet in mind — and they want them to stand out... by mismatching your socks! Canadian designed, these socks might not look exactly alike, but they look good together. **Available at: fridaysock.co, approximately $15 per set**

Radiating style in Vancouver

East Vancouver's Woodtype Shop creates custom made ultra-cool wooden signs (with lights) that radiate with warm, funky style. Choose the word, style, font, size and colour pallet and then just chill. **Available at: woodtype.ca, $750 (prices vary by sign)**

The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to make sure you're financially on track. ISTOCK

Get rich quicker in the new year

ADVICE

No better time to take stock and get your money working

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

Where the hell did 2016 go? Holy moley! And can you believe how easy it was to ignore the details of your financial life when everything was rushing past you like a sped-up movie scene.

Time to stop, take a breath, and take stock. Living in ignorance of what's worked and what hasn't is not the way to a successful 2017, which is just around the corner. So here we go:

1. Complete a net-worth statement. How do you feel about what you accomplished financially in 2016? What's the biggest financial concern you have right now? What one thing do you want to accomplish before another year rolls past?

2. Update your budget. Did you stick to plan? What should you tweak for 2017? Once you get comfortable living on a budget, you might also get complacent about costs that are going up. Is it time to do some trimming? Have prices risen in some areas of your budget, indicating that you need to trim in other areas to rebalance? Are there other changes — partnering, babies, job changes — that have taken place since you did your budget that you need to incorporate officially?

3. Review your debt repayment plan. Some people find it hard to imagine being debt free. But you can be. It may take another job to earn the extra money to get out of debt. But if that's what it takes, you can do it. Are you on target to be debt-free by a specific date? Is that date realistic? Do you have a debt-repayment plan in writing?

4. Assess your emergency savings. It takes small steps to get to where you want to be. Having six months' worth of essential expenses isn't a nice to have, it's a gotta have.

5. Look at your retirement plan. Are you taking advantage of the savings-matching program at work? Why the hell not? That's free money! Would you turn down a raise? If you don't have a work plan, then you must have an individual retirement savings plan.

6. Quantify your investment return. Are the investment choices you made still working for you? Are you well diversified? This would be a good time to adjust the investments that may have fallen out of whack with your goals and tolerance for risk.

7. Review your insurance coverage: car, property, life and disability. If you think insurance is a waste of money, answer me this: As if a life disaster isn't bad enough, would it be fair to you and your family to be financially wiped out at the same time?

8. Review your will. And how about your powers of attorney for both personal care and money? Have you named a guardian for your children? Have you reviewed this documentation in the last two years, or since your last major life change (marriage, divorce, moving, birth of a child)?

You work hard for your money. And at the same time, it should work equally hard for you. The beginning of the year is a perfect time to make sure you're on track and your money is doing what you want it to.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

SHOPPING

Max out on experience, not gifts

Rachel Jonat and her husband didn't purchase any Christmas gifts for their three sons when they were too young to understand the tradition.

Now, she asks extended family to ease up on presents and plans to shift to a no-gift policy once Santa is out of the picture.

"I think deciding early on to ... not give them the moon at Christmas will make it a lot easier to manage bigger requests," says the Vancouverite and author of Do Less: A Minimalist Guide to a Simplified, Organized, and Happy Life.

While asking friends and family for a scaled-back holiday can be tricky and require laying some careful groundwork, the news may come as a relief to loved ones during what can be a stressful season.

This year, Canadians plan to spend an average of $884 on holiday gifts, up from $766 in 2015, according to a survey by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

And that figure jumps when factoring in other seasonal costs. Last year, Canadians planned to spend an average of $1,551 on presents, travel, entertaining and other items, like decorations, during the holidays, a BMO survey found.

If you're attempting to negotiate a leaner Christmas with extended family expect "a tricky conversation," say Jonat. It helps to drop hints early, she says, like talking about a preference for fewer toys in the home or for experience-based gifts that don't take up space.

Sometimes that's enough to influence how others give. But when the Jonats receive superfluous gifts, they're returned, like she did with about half of her boys' loot last year.

"(We) used the store credit when we needed it to pay for a new car seat," she says.

It's also okay to opt out of gift exchanges with friends, acquaintances and colleagues, Jonat says.

For Rebecca Saha, who blogs about minimalism for the Green Moms Collective, Secret Santa exchanges with her husband and their three kids involves each person receiving four gifts: something they want, something they need, something to wear and something to read.

One year, when Saha became overwhelmed with her list of people to shop for, the family decided to sponsor a child through charity on behalf of all those they wanted to stop exchanging presents with.

$884

The average amount Canadians plan to spend on gifts this year, up from $766 in 2015, according to a survey by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada.

They shared the information in their holiday cards.

"It soft-peddled the news," Saha says, adding people reacted positively and she found it less awkward than stopping cold turkey.

While adults may be relieved by a leaner Christmas, Jonat says to be prepared for some disappointed kids the first time a family decides to try it out.

Still, she adds, "we're in changing times now and the kind of excessiveness that, you know, may have been en vogue and popular is definitely waning."

Fewer presents instead gives families more money and time to spend together, having fun or helping their community, she says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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YOU CAN DO THIS ACCOUNTING

Building up from bottom line

WHY I LIKE MY JOB

Iris Moore, 26, Accounting Supervisor and CPA Candidate.

One of my first jobs was as a customer service representative with a global company, in which the accounting department had a strong partnership with all branches. My academic background in business management and organizational studies helped propel my career to an accounting role with the same company. The position is consultative in nature and I work with all company branches to improve their bottom line.

In school my favourite accounting course was managerial accounting, which is very similar to my current role in that I use and create reporting procedures for other departments and people in the company to help improve efficiencies, drive revenue and save money. I also train new branch employees, so the job is more social than one might suspect.

Working with a global company provides a lot of opportunities for growth. I like the autonomy I have to improve my area's numbers while also developing employees. I enjoy the role because it's incredibly dynamic — one minute I'll be building and analyzing a report and the next I'll be leading an interactive presentation for new hires. I feel like I really make an impact on both the company and its employees.

THE BASICS: Accountant

$49,705

Median annual salary for an entry-level accountant. Those who obtain their CPA designation can expect to earn an average of **$63,000** or more per year.

+4%

Projected job growth rate over the next eight years.

Data for this feature was provided by payscale.com, cpacanada.ca, trade-schools.ca and ontariocolleges.ca

HOW TO START

Accounting technicians and assistants require a two-year diploma in accounting and finance, whereas general accountants will typically require a bachelor of commerce in financial services or a relevant business degree. No matter the program, students will gain a solid background in accounting practices and fundamentals, mathematics of finance, business communications and accounting application software.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

Professional accountants can leverage their analytical and technical skillsets in virtually any industry. This encourages many accountants, bookkeepers, payroll administrators and other financial service specialists to take on a variety of employment opportunities throughout their careers. The option to travel and work across the country or even internationally is appealing for young accountants.

NEXT CAREER STEP

Career advancement in this industry requires the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation, which serves as a stepping stone to professions such as financial manager and accounting supervisor. Candidates must possess an undergraduate degree to gain admission to the CPA Professional Education Program (PEP). Over time, they may branch out to other areas of accounting, including financial auditing, forensic and tax accounting.

$155M OPENING

Rogue One smashes weekend predictions

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story soared to the top of the weekend box office as expected, scoring the second-best December opening ever with $155 million in estimated ticket sales.

After the biggest Thursday night debut of the year, the intergalactic adventure blasted past industry expectations for a $130 million weekend, according Sunday's studio estimates. Rogue One opened at No. 1 in all markets globally, though it has yet to bow in China and Korea.

"We're in uncharted territory for December," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box office tracker comScore. "It's going to be really hard for any movie to catch up to this movie. ... This is only the second time a movie has opened this big in December."

The record-setter was Star Wars: The Force Awakens, the space saga's seventh installment, which debuted to $247.9 million in the U.S. and Canada last December.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENTERTAINMENT

Rodriguez realizes a dream with Honours awards

Gina Rodriguez imagined a Hollywood-style awards show that recognized young women for realizing their dreams in science, public policy and community service. So the actress followed her own dream and made it happen.

The Jane the Virgin star is producer and host of the inaugural Marie Claire Young Women's Honours, airing Monday as a special on the CW at 9 p.m.

The show has all the trappings of a typical Hollywood awards ceremony — a glitzy dinner with celebrity presenters such as Katie Holmes and Hailee Steinfeld — except the honorees are female achievers outside the entertainment industry, such as entrepreneur-inventor Jessica Matthews and political activist Amanda Nguyen.

"I've always wanted to do work to uplift women, to put women in the forefront of the media and to really glorify other aspects of our society that aren't just fame-driven," Rodriguez said in a recent interview.

"There are a lot of wonderful things that a woman can do and is capable of that we don't see that often in the media and pop culture ... And it would be great to start streaming stuff like Young Women's Honours through the same apparatus that says you should have lip injections."

Actress Gina Rodriguez says she found hosting the Marie Claire Young Women's Honours deeply rewarding and, at times, overwhelming. RICH POLK/GETTY IMAGES

The show, taped last month at the Marina del Rey Marriott in Los Angeles, also spotlights Olympic gymnast Simone Biles, Paralympian Tatyana McFadden and Fereshteh Forough, who is providing income possibilities to women in Afghanistan by teaching them coding skills.

Young Women's Honours is the first project for Rodriguez's year-old company I Can and I Will Productions. The actress and her partners developed the show, secured sponsors and presenters and helped choose the honorees.

"It was a huge undertaking," Rodriguez said. "It was like planning a wedding. It was like a week before the wedding: everything was a disaster and the bride was going to run away, me being the bride!"

She said she was moved by the honorees' achievements and touched by the willingness of actresses such as Holmes, Steinfeld, Laverne Cox, Tatiana Maslany and others to appear as presenters on a first-time awards show. Rodriguez found the experience deeply rewarding and, at times, overwhelming.

"I had never been more hands-on besides Jane," Rodriguez said. "When it was done, I went on the balcony and just bawled."

There's no more time for tears, though, even ones of relief. Rodriguez is busy shooting Jane the Virgin, which returned for its third season in the fall. She's on the cover of Marie Claire magazine's December issue, which features the recipients of the Young Women's Honours inside. And now she's off to Thailand, where she's writing a book inspired by her father, I Can and I Will: Tools My Daddy Gave Me.

But first comes the premiere of Young Women's Honours and Rodriguez is still pinching herself.

"This has been a dream of mine forever," she said. "I am telling others to dream big and to make their dreams a reality and it's something that I did with doing this. It is such a real feeling."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Leroy Sane of Manchester City, left, scores his sides first goal during their crunch league game against Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday in Manchester, England. CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

Gunners shot down by Sane and Sterling

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal fall apart in second half after early Walcott opener

Raheem Sterling capped a rousing second-half comeback by Manchester City with the winning goal as Arsenal squandered a lead to lose 2-1 for the second time in five days in the English Premier League on Sunday.

The England winger collected Kevin De Bruyne's sensational cross-field pass before cutting inside and driving home a low finish in the 71st minute at Etihad Stadium.

Arsenal led through Theo Walcott's fifth-minute strike —another goal that raised questions about City's defensive frailties — before Leroy Sane equalized in the 47th with his first goal for City.

SUNDAY in Manchester

2	1
MAN.CITY	ARSENAL

While City moved back to within seven points of first-place Chelsea, Arsenal dropped nine points off the leaders at the end of a week in which Arsene Wenger's team also lost after being 1-0 up at Everton on Tuesday.

"We were caught cold in the second half and we dropped physically," Wenger said.

City has reacted to a 4-2 loss at Leicester last weekend, which led to fierce criticism of coach Pep Guardiola's tactics, with two wins this week to revive the team's title challenge.

Guardiola's side dominated the second half after playing it without a recognized striker, with Raheem Sterling — a winger who was up front in the first half — was sent out to the right flank.

With Fernandinho back from a three-match suspension next week against Hull, Sergio Aguero only banned for one more game and Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus joining in January, things are looking up for City again.

"The victories give a lot of confidence in the mind of the players in what we are trying to do," Guardiola said. "I am so happy for the fans. They stay until the 94th minute, normally they go with 10 minutes left."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESULTS

- Bournemouth 1
- **Southampton 3**
- **Tottenham 2**
- Burnley 1

CLUB WORLD CUP

Ronaldo tricks plucky Antlers

Cristiano Ronaldo scored a hat trick on Sunday as European champion Real Madrid claimed its second Club World Cup title by beating brave and overachieving Japanese side Kashima Antlers 4-2 after extra time.

With the score at 2-2 in Japan after normal time, Ronaldo received a pass from Karim Benzema in the 98th minute and calmly fired under Kashima goalkeeper Hitoshi Sogahata to make it 3-2. The Portuguese star then sealed the win six minutes later with a left-footed shot to the roof of the net. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo scores a penalty during the Club World Cup final against Japan's Kashima Antlers. TOSHIFUMI KITAMURA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES)

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Easy Cheese Pear Melt

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Our goal this week is fast and easy dinner. This grilled cheese is amped up with delicious extras like sliced pears and mushrooms and a hit of Dijon for zing.

Ready in 15 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 1

Ingredients
- Butter
- Cremini mushrooms, thinly sliced
- Pumpernickel bread
- Dijon mustard (optional)
- Fontina cheese, grated
- Pears, thinly sliced

Directions

1. In a skillet, melt a pat of butter over medium heat. Toss in sliced mushrooms and push around until they soften. Remove from pan and set aside. Wipe pan.

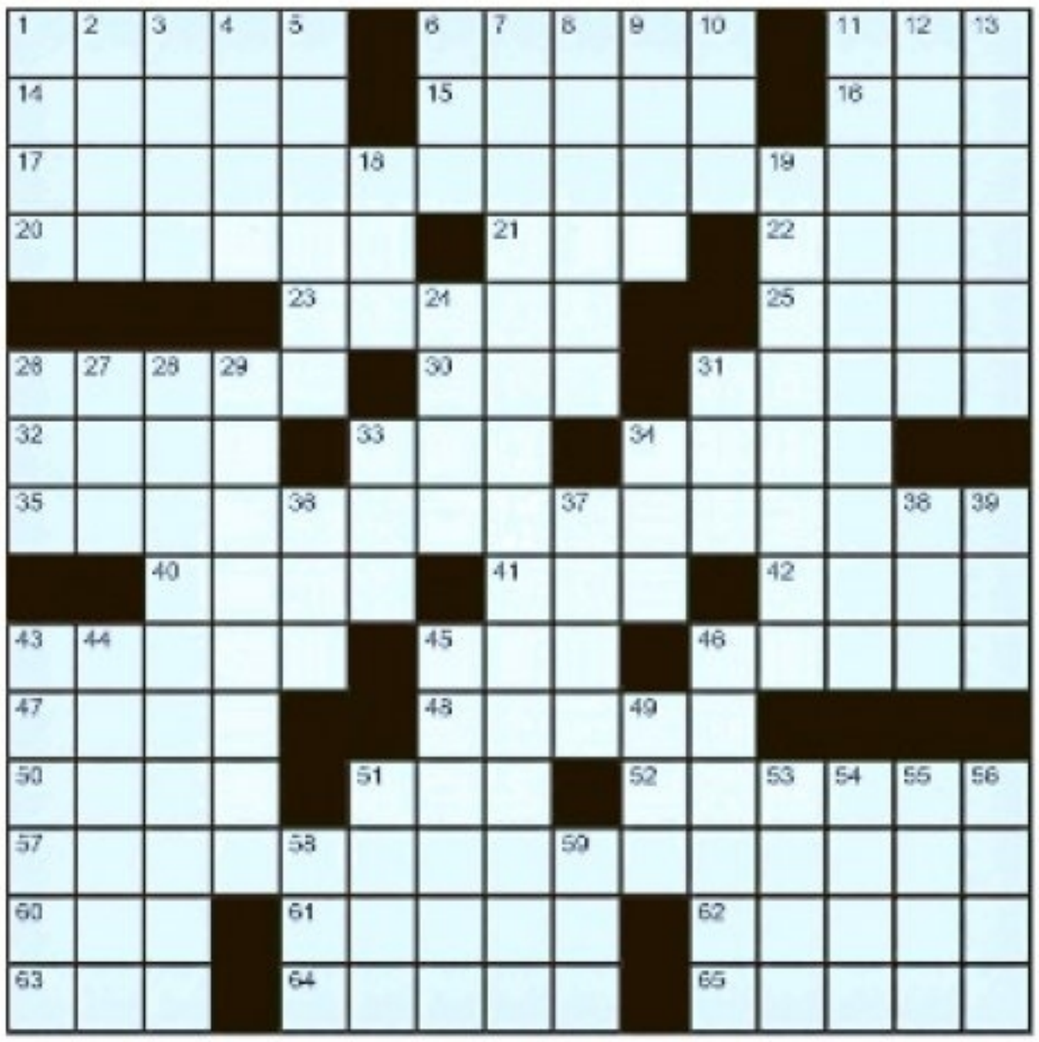
2. Butter bread (and swipe other side with a bit of Dijon) and place each piece in pan, butter side down. Place a handful of Fontina on each, then press down a couple of slices of pear, followed by a spoonful of mushrooms. Place another piece of pumpernickel on top, butter side out. Let sizzle 2 or 3 minutes, peeking at the underside with a spatula to ensure bread is toasting not burning. Flip.

3. Allow to grill for a couple more minutes then remove from the heat. Cut in half and serve warm.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Jewelry fastener
6. Tropical beach gear
11. Boxer's size stat.
14. Broadcaster
15. Taboos
16. Charlemagne's li'l domain
17. Christmas Eve gifts for Santa: 3 wds.
20. Send word
21. Merriment
22. 'Meteor' suffixes
23. Serenity, __ peace
25. Filmmaker Ms. Riefenstahl
26. __ kit (Heath 'cleanse' purchase)
30. Water wiggler
31. Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? playwright Edward
32. Story told backwards?
33. Food scrap
34. Latin hymn: "Dies __"
35. "Sleigh Ride" bit: "We're riding along with a song / Of a ____"
40. Christmastime
41. Wheat: French
42. Montana's motto, '__ Plata'
43. Krispy __ Doughnuts
45. Mr. Gore's
46. Swamp plant
47. Canadian hardware store
48. Respond
50. Book's ID
51. Ms. Messing, mini-ly
52. Rooming house tenant
57. Christmastime 'tis the what?: 4 wds.
60. Sigma's alphabetic follower
61. Lake __ (American ski resort area)
62. __ Lumpur, Malaysia
63. "Delish!"
64. City of Honshu in Japan
65. Suze __ (Personal finance TV personality)

DOWN
1. Cereal brand, __'__ Crunch
2. "__ & Stitch" (2002)
3. "How now, ___?" - Hamlet
4. Son of Ramses I
5. 'Hemi' or 'Micro', for example
6. Ski hill machine, __-Cat
7. Literary purchase that also serves as a home decor feature: 3 wds.
8. Straighten hair
9. Benefit
10. Mount __ (Volcano in Japan)
11. Santa Claus feature: 2 wds.
12. Canadian star Lorne of "Bonanza"
13. Music hall star Ms. O'Shea who shared the billing the famous night The Beatles first appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1964
18. Equivalent word [abbr.]
19. Eastern Ontario: The Township of __-Hagarty-Richards
24. Spongy toys brand
26. Mountain __ (Soft drink)
27. 'E' in REO
28. Christmas carol from Germany: "O __"
29. Living room pieces
31. 'Bound' suffix
33. Popeye's sweetie Olive
34. U2's li'l land
36. Riddle-me-__
37. Ingrid's celebrated movie role
38. Eggy Christmas beverage
39. Tie-__
43. Ms. Swanson of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (1992)
44. Dominica's capital
45. Vocal legend Ms. Franklin
46. Canadian skater Elvis
49. Canadian actor Mr. Bennett
51. Scientific 'strands'
53. Sullen
54. 1970s music genre, __ Rock
55. "__ Enchanted" (2004)
56. Mr. Seacrest
58. It means 'Ear'
59. Maude's portrayer

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Grab every chance to travel, because you need a change of scenery. Likewise, you will love to learn something new if you take a course or study something unusual.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You can make headway clearing up loose details about shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. Just roll up your sleeves and dig in. Now is the time!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You can learn a lot about your style of relating to friends, spouses and partners at this time. Observe your style of dealing with those who are closest to you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You have a lot of stuff, and anything you do to help you feel better organized is a good thing. What can you do today to make your life run more smoothly?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You want to play and take time off from drudgery, even if it's just catching a game or going out for dinner or seeing a movie. You need some fun!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Because you will likely earn more money soon, this is a good time to think about how you can make home repairs. You also might be focused on a parent more than usual.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a busy time for you, because short trips, reading, writing and talking to everyone will keep you on the go. Enjoy this accelerated pace.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It's important to know what your money situation is. How much do you own? How much do you make? How much do you owe? Knowledge is power.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Make the most of this time with three planets are in your sign. It's easy to attract positive situations now, which means you can come out on top.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You might want to hide for a few days, because you're not ready to step out into the world. When your birthday arrives, things will be different.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Enjoy your popularity with others now. Probably more than any other sign in the zodiac, friendships mean a lot to you.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Because you look so good to bosses and VIPs, use this time to go after what you want. Promote your own agenda. Speak up.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

					6	1		
				4			8	
				8			4	7
	4	9			2	7		
5			3	7	1		6	
1							2	
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			6		8			

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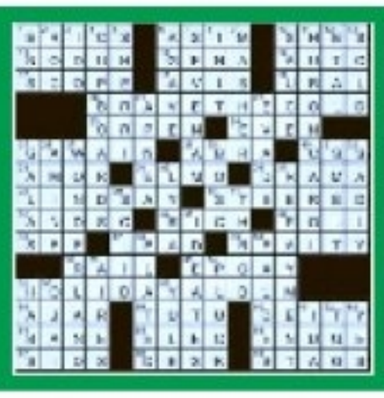

6	9	2	8	3	7	5	4	1
4	5	8	6	1	9	2	3	7
3	7	1	4	2	5	9	8	6
9	4	5	2	8	1	7	6	3
1	6	3	5	7	4	8	2	9
2	8	7	3	9	6	4	1	5
7	3	6	9	4	8	1	5	2
8	2	9	1	5	3	6	7	4
5	1	4	7	6	2	3	9	8

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